

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01295 311549Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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SUBJECT: MARKET FOR US PLASTIC INDUSTRY PRODUCTS
IN GABON

REF: A. USDOC 8943

B. LAGOS 5626

C. USDOC 9911

1. EMBASSY HOPES THAT FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND DATA ON PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN GABON AND POTENTIAL MARKET FOR US PLASTIC PRODUCTS WILL BE USEFUL FOR USDOC IN REPLYING TO REQUEST FROM US PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION.

2. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN GABON WITH FOLLOWING THREE MINOR EXCEPTIONS. (A) SOGAPLAST, ESTABLISHED IN 1971 AND NO LONGER OPERATIONAL, MANUFACTURED PLASTIC SHOES AND HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES. MACHINERY HAS BEEN SOLD, BUT DIRECTOR INDICATED HE WOULD RESUME OPERATIONS IF NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARISE. DIRECTOR MENTIONED DIFFICULTY IN SECURING BANK LOANS RESULTED IN CLOSING DOWN BUSINESS. (B) SOFAPLAST, BP 5000 LIBREVILLE, WAS ESTABLISHED IN LATE 1976 AND PRODUCES DOOR AND WINDOW FRAMES FROM PLASTIC BARS IMPORTED FROM FRANCE. DIRECTOR INDICATED HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MANUFACTURING BASIC MATERIAL HERE. (C) SAGA, BP 613, LIBREVILLE, BRANCH OF LARGE FIRM SOGAFRIC, MANUFACTURES SOAP AND POLYSTY-
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01295 311549Z

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3. AVAILABLE STATISTICS PROVIDE FOLLOWING IMPORT DATA FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1976. ALL VALUES EXPRESSED IN US DOLS USING 248 CFA TO ONE US DOLLAR. PLASTICI TUBIN; TOTAL 279,009; FROM FRANCE 266,940; FROM IVORY COAST 8,079; OTHER 3,990.

PLASTIC SHOES: TOTAL 218,731; FROM FRANCE 205,928;
FROM IVORY COAST 510; FROM FAR EAST SOURCES 12,292.
OTHER PLASTIC PRODUCTS, NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED; TOTAL
1,466;141; FROM FRANCE 1, 156,203; FROM IVORY COAST 18,772;
FROM FAR EAST SOURCES 291,166.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOOD MARKET EXISTS FOR BUILDING
AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PLASTIC MATERIALS BASED ON
BRIEF DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL LIBREVILLE FIRMS.
MOST OF THESE MATERIALS ARE PRESENTLY IMPORTED FROM
FRANCE. MATERIALS NOW IMPORTED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
VINYL WALL COVERINGS, FLOOR TILES, PIPES AND
TUBING, FITTINGS, SYNTHETIC FIBER CARPETING, BATH TUBS
OF PLASTIC/MARBLE COMPOSITE, METAL PLATED PLASTIC FAUCETS
AND SPIGOTS, MEDICINE CABINETS, TOILET SEATS AND COVERS,
ROOFING MATERIAL, DECORATIVE PANELS FOR BUILDING FACADES,
FORMICA SHEETS, WALL SWITCH PLATE AND SOCKET COVERS,
AND ELECTRICAL CABLE COVERING. ALTHOUGH DEMAND FOR THESE
PRODUCTS IS NOW VERY HEAVY BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION BOOM
UNDERWAY IN GABON, MARKET WILL PROBABLY EASE OFF SUBSTANTIALLY
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.
FURTHER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL SUCH IMPORTS MUST CONFORM TO
EUROPEAN STANDARDS. STEIGMAN

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